NARASIMHA AVATAR

...The Half-man Half-lion Incarnation



Narasimha Avatar is the fourth amongst the Dashavatars of Lord Vishnu.




Long ago, there lived a great demon named Hiranyakashipu, who terrorized the three worlds.

He performed great austerities to receive a benediction from Lord Brahma.



When Lord Brahma appeared, Hiranyakashipu asked for a benediction that, may he not be killed by any man or beast, not at night or day, not on the ground or in the air, not inside or outside his palace and not by any weapon.





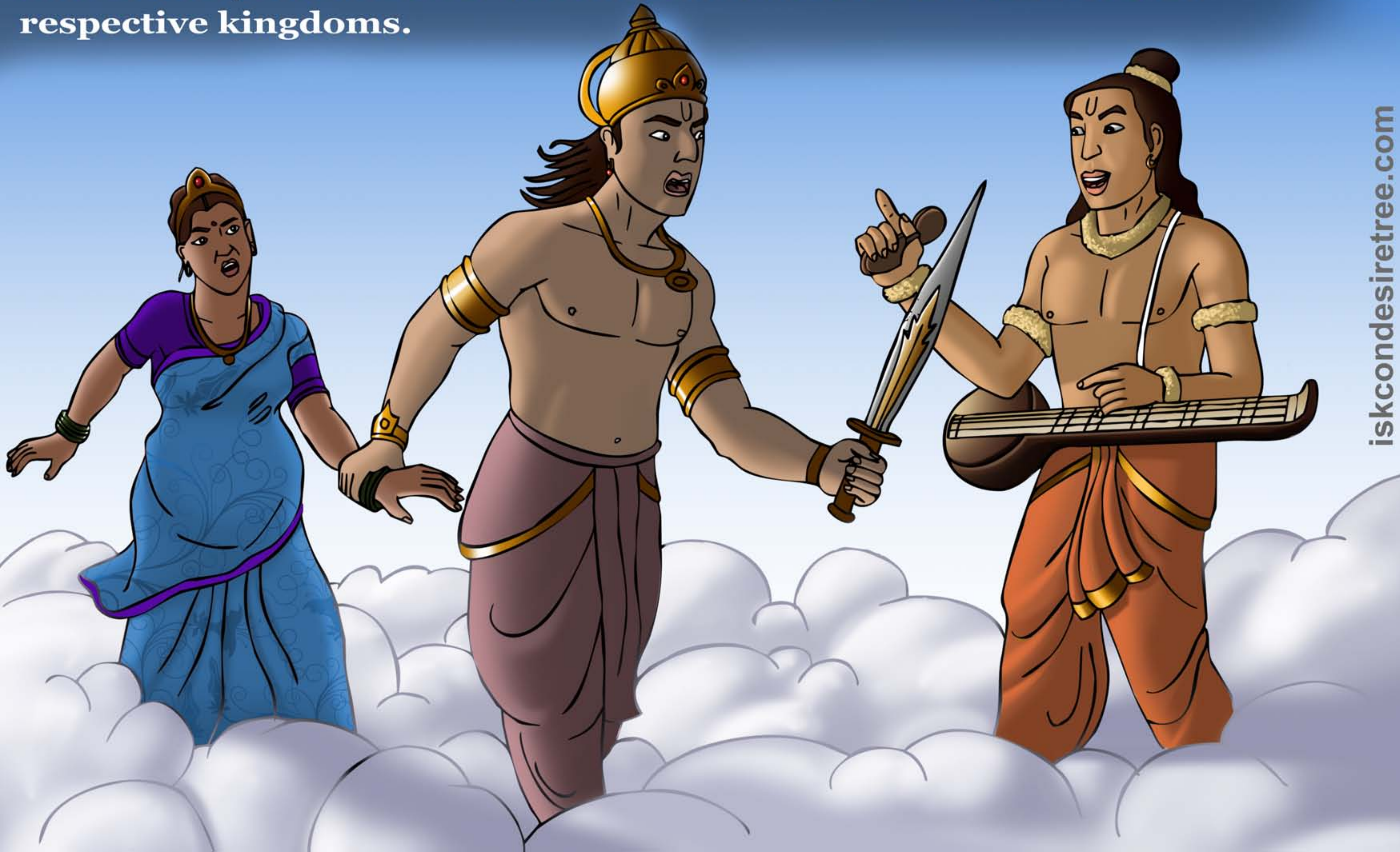
Lord Brahma was very satisfied by Hiranyakashipu's austerities, which were difficult to perform. Therefore, when solicited for benedictions, Lord Brahma indeed granted them although they were rarely achieved.



While Hiranyakashipu was performing austerities, taking advantage of his absence, the demigods attacked his kingdom. They caught hold of Hiranyakashipu's pregnant wife Kayadu and held her captive so that they could kill the new-born and stop the blooming of another Hiranyakashipu-like oppressive demon.



However, Narada muni came to the rescue of the child and urged the demigods to free Kayadu, as her forthcoming issue was destined to be a great devotee of the Supreme Lord. Hearing this, the demigods immediately released her with due honour and returned to their respective kingdoms.




Narada muni then instructed Kayadu and Prahlada, who was in the womb about pure devotional service.

After having received the benediction, powerful Hiranyakashipu returned to his palace. He was very pleased to see his son Prahlada.



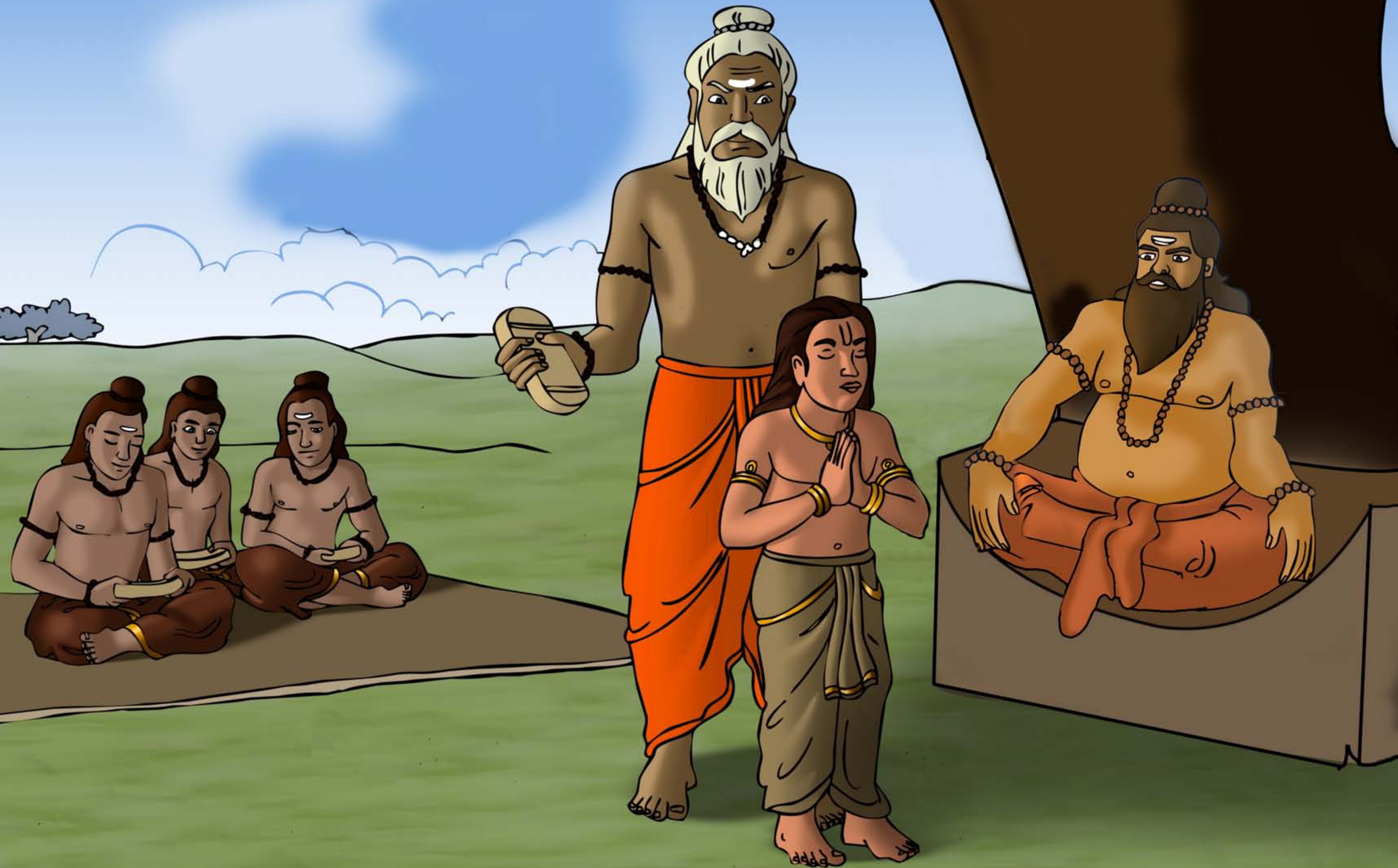
Hiranyakashipu decided to send Prahlada to the best Gurukul, so he sent him to the Gurukul of Shanda and Amarka who were the sons of Shukracharya.



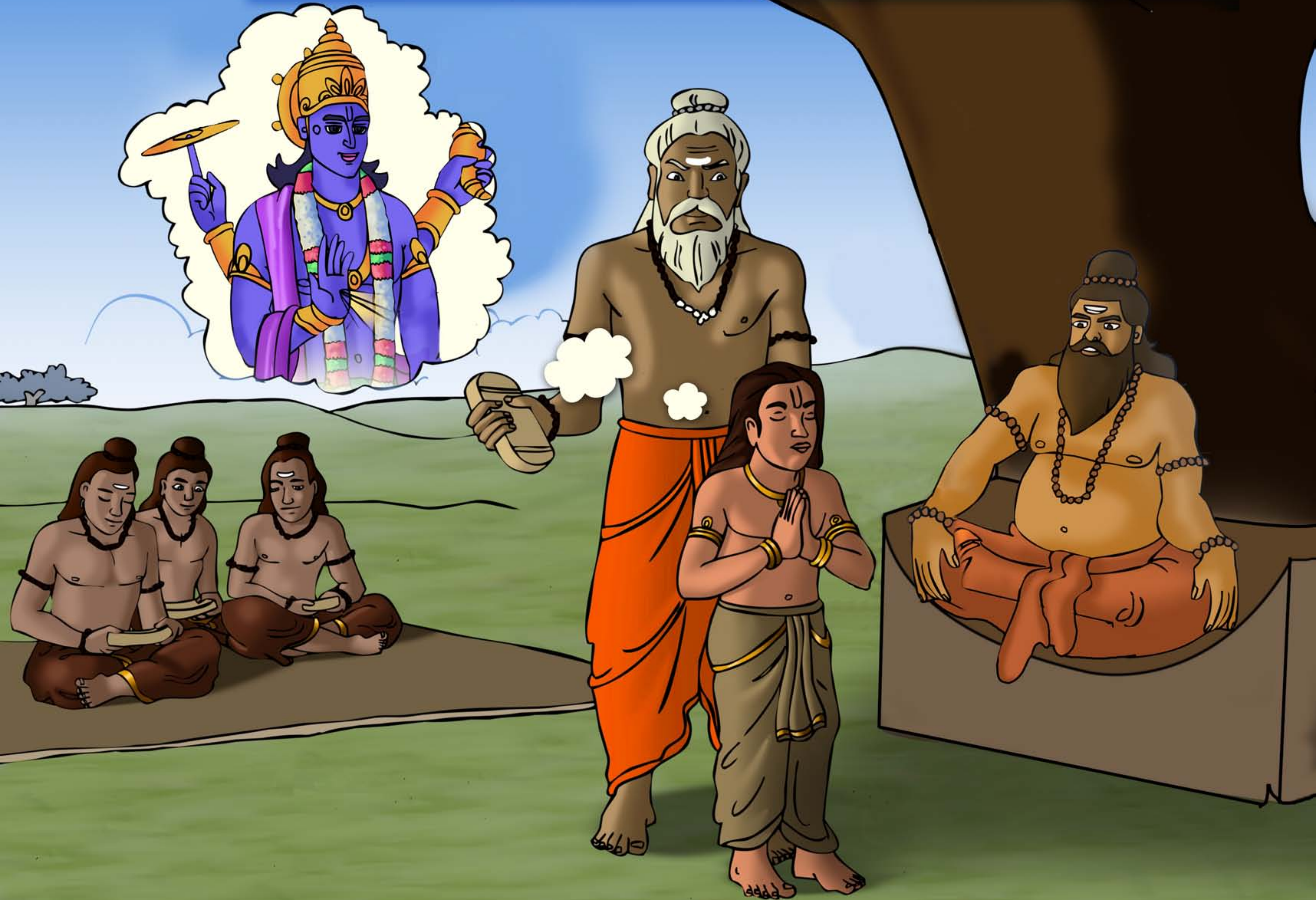




The teachers Shanda and Amarka instructed Prahlada about the three kinds of material advancement called religion, economic development and sense gratification.



Prahlada, however, being devoted to Lord Vishnu did not like the materialistic instructions of his teacher's.




When Prahlada returned from his school Hiranyakashipu questioned,
What did you learn in school today?

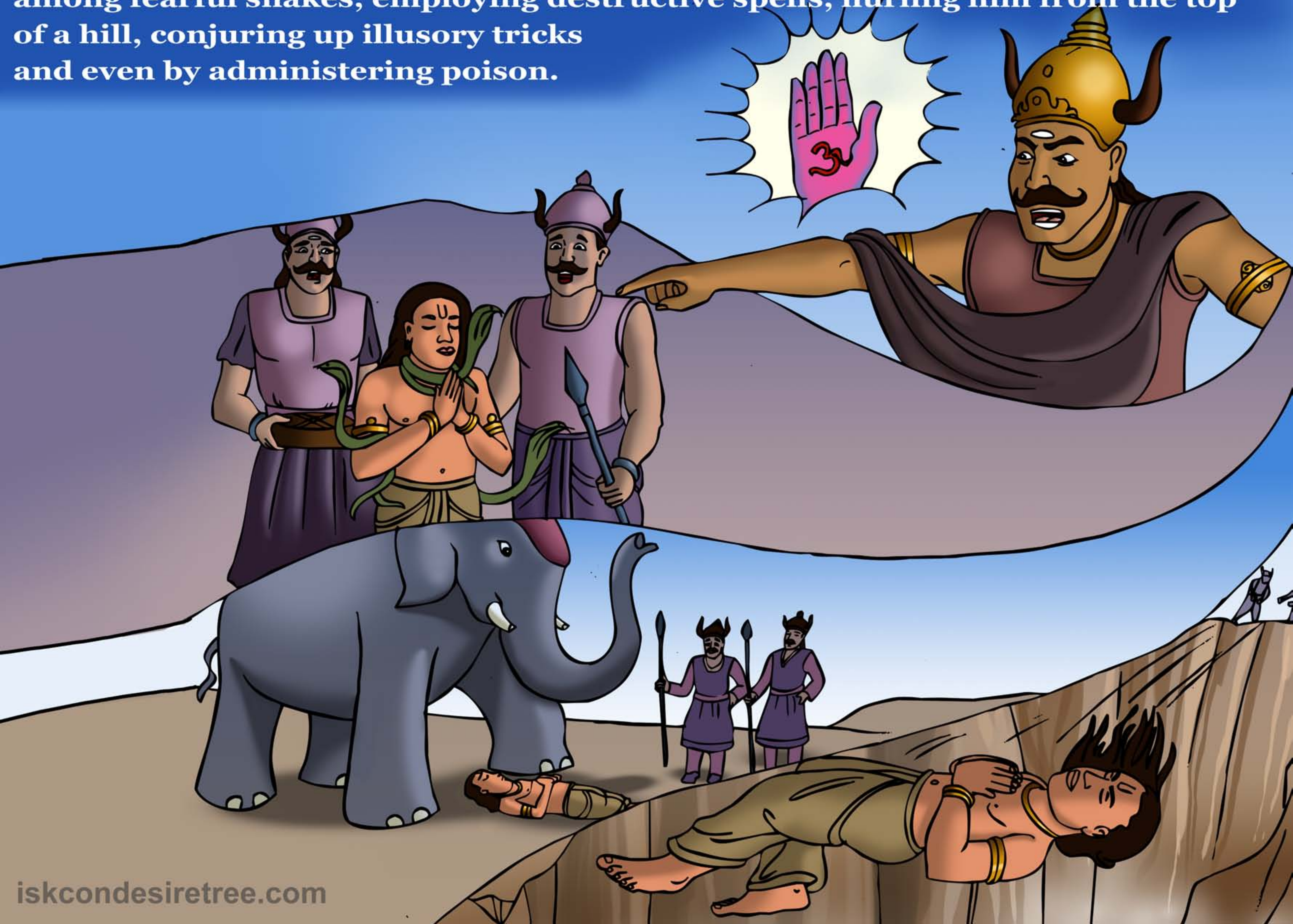
Prahlada answered,



Hiranyakashipu was furious to hear Prahlada's words as it glorified Lord Vishnu, his greatest enemy. Hence, he decided to kill Prahlada.



Hiranyakashipu tried many tricks to kill Prahlada but he could not kill his son, Prahlada by throwing him beneath the feet of big elephants, throwing him among fearful snakes, employing destructive spells, hurling him from the top of a hill, conjuring up illusory tricks and even by administering poison.



When Hiranyakashipu realised that he could not, in any way harm Prahlada, who was completely sinless, he was in great anxiety about what to do next.



Hiranyakashipu in great anger then asked Prahlada,



Prahlada replied,



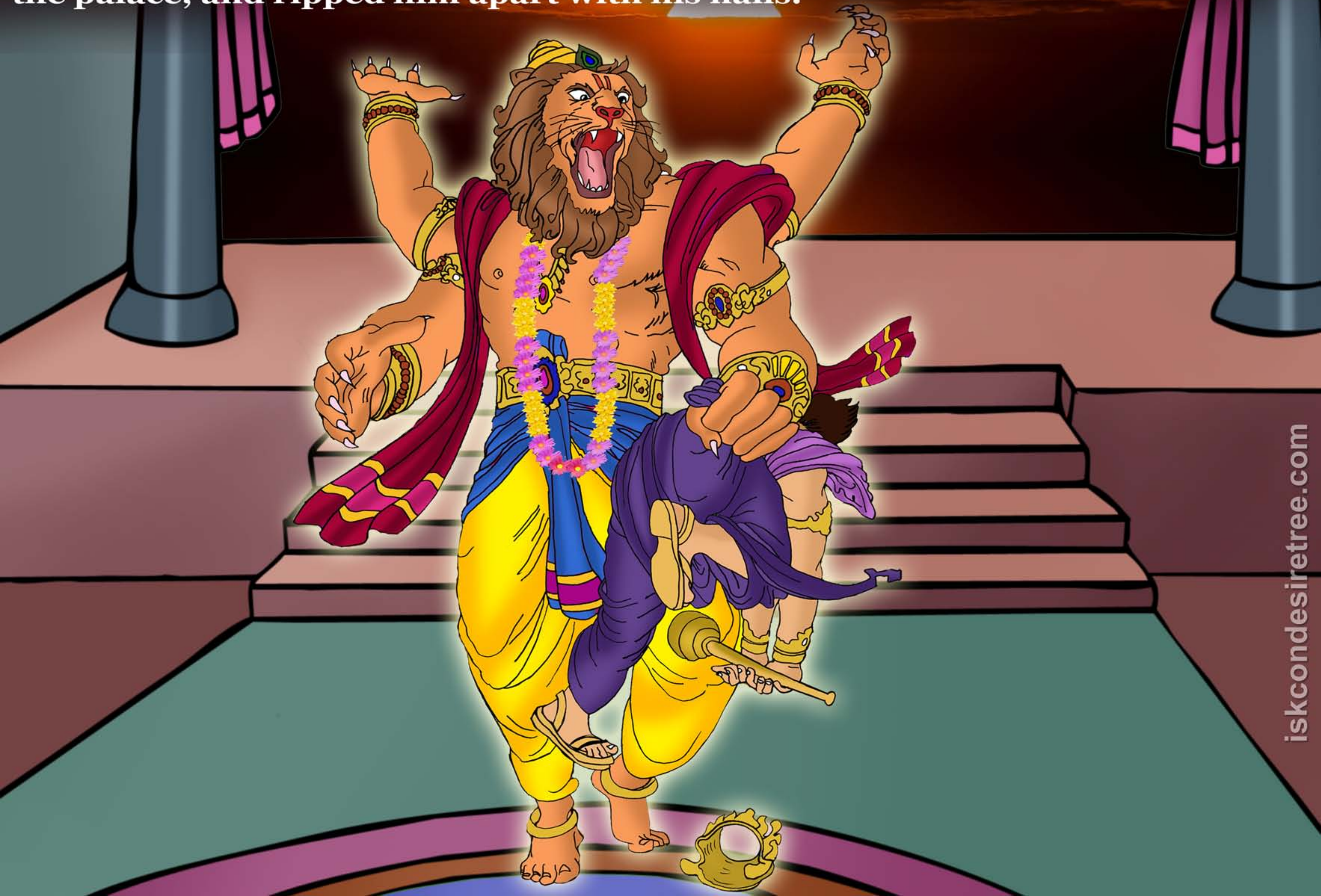

Hiranyakashipu got up from his royal throne, took up his powerful club and with great anger struck it against the pillar and said,
Let me see if your Lord is really present in this pillar.

That moment, from within the pillar came a fearful sound, a great rumbling roar, which seemed to crack the covering of the universe. The pillar cracked and burst asunder. From within the pillar appeared Lord Narasimhadeva in his half-man half-lion form, which was most wonderful to behold.



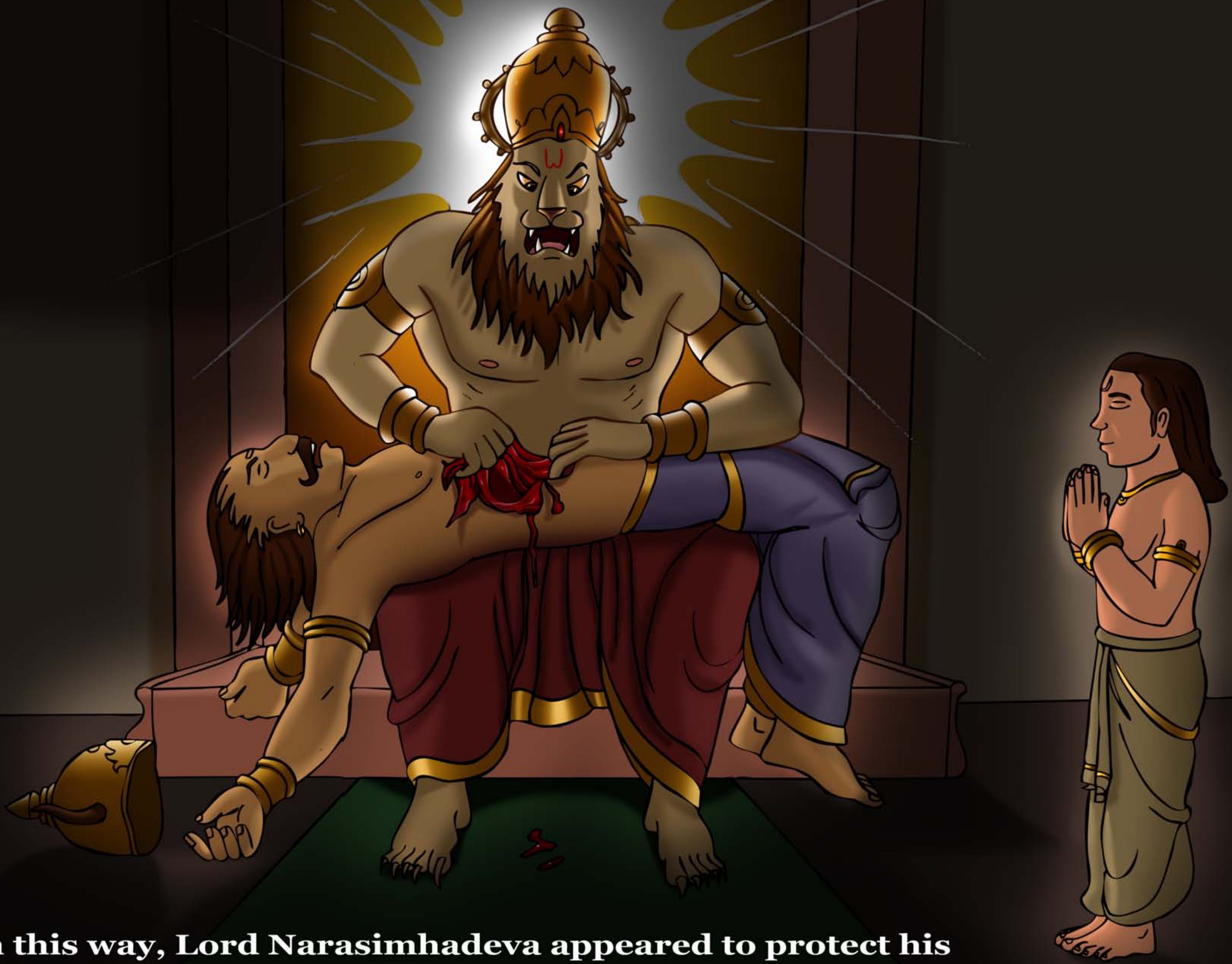

Lord Narasimhadeva's
form was as dazzling as
millions of rising suns
and his fiery eyes were
filled with anger.
iskcondesiretree.com

With a sword in his hand Hiranyakashipu arrogantly rushed towards the Lord, falsely thinking that he could kill the Lord. Lord Narasimhadeva fought with the demon for awhile and finally at the right time, when the sun was setting in the horizon, the Lord put the demon on his lap at the doorway of the palace, and ripped him apart with his nails.



In this way, Lord Brahma's boon was kept intact, for the demon was killed not by any weapon but nails, not by any man or beast but by half-man-half-lion, not in the day or at night but at dusk, not on the ground or in the air but on the lap, neither inside nor outside the palace but on the doorway.





In this way, Lord Narasimhadeva appeared to protect his dearmost devotee Prahlada. Lord Narasimhadeva removes all obstacles from the path of devotional service.

Narasimhadeva Bhagavan Ki Jai !!!



Script : Madanmanjari devi dasi
Graphics : Ranjana Sawant & Hari Roy
Produced by : iskcondesiretree.net